

REMARKS

Claims 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 remain in the application with claims 9, 11, and 14 having been amended hereby and claims 10 and 13 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 102 (b), as being anticipated by Horie.

In paragraph 6 of the official instant action claims 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 has been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13 along with the subject matter of claim 10 through which claim 13 depended from claim 9. Claims 10 and 13 have been canceled.

Accordingly, by reason of the allowable subject matter in claim 9 it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is patentably distinct over the cited reference.

The cancellation of claim 10 renders moot the rejection thereof under 35 USC 103.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Horie in view of White and further in view of Kersey et al.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 which now includes

the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11 and 12 are also patentably distinct over the cited references.

Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 9.

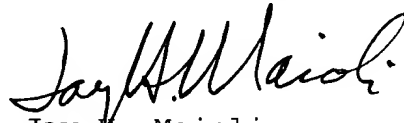
Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby to include allowable subject matter it is respectfully submitted that the tape library of the present invention is patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" being clearly legible.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:tb